The Mustard Seed Catholic Worker

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Spring 2016

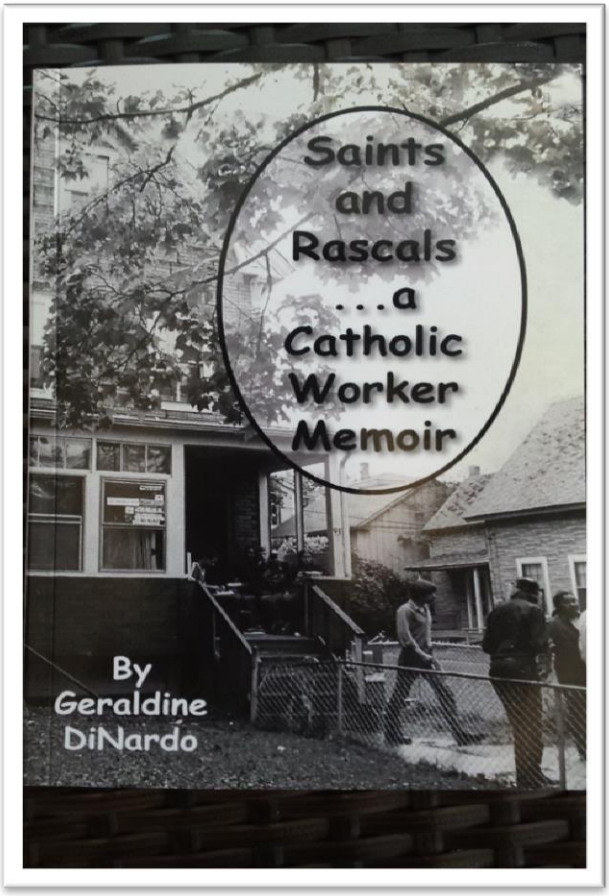
Alas, some word from us. Happy Easter to all and blessed Passover is around the corner! Freedom as the precious gift of a caring and compassionate God is well celebrated in both events. Both give us reason for holy hope and may this newsletter reach you in the spirit of such blessing in times that seem to put our moral mettle to the test. Thanks to God and the generosity of so many friends, we make an effort to exercise virtue via means of grace hereabouts. Deo gratias. We have been busy these last months! Here's the latest news. We hope it is of a goodly interest to you.

Mural We have been blessed with a full wall mural thanks to the leaders and youth of Saint Columba's Parish in Paxton and it brings to us that sense and spirit of Easter joy! Special thanks goes to Terry, artist Courtney and the wonderful young people who completed the project on the Feast of Saint Joseph. What a gift the mural is in making our cellar space more beautiful and welcoming. It is also a reminder of why we are here- to announce the coming of God's reign to Piedmont and Worcester.

The Kingdom of God
is like a mustard seed.....the smallest of all
but becomes the biggest so that the birds of the air shelter in it

Thomas Wright, Our Beautiful Brother, Rest in Peace Our beloved Tommy has gone home to God. He was home with us for many, many years, he coming to us as a homeless 17-year old and spending the rest of his life with us. He was a special one and his story is told visually here in a lovely little film by Doug Rogers that can be watched here: https://vimeo.com/67545190 and told in his obituary that can be read here: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/telegram/obituary.aspx?n=thomas-wright&pid=178006504. A beautiful Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at Saint Anne's by our priest friend, John Foley. Tommy was and remains a great blessing to us. May he intercede for the house from above that we may live that life here below "worth living" and be reunited with him in eternal "festival of friends."

Book Another wonderful project completed in March was the publication of Geraldine DiNardo's book about the "characters with character" who peopled the early Mustard Seed. This lovely book titled "Saints and Rascals… a Catholic Worker Memoir" is available at the house or by e-writing Michael at mbhoundofheaven@gmail.com.



Michael has also been doing some writing that found its way into print. Living City Magazine's April issue includes his piece on Dorothy Day that can be read online here: https://livingcitymagazine.com/steadfast_spirit.

Upcoming Clarification of Thought Meetings at the Mustard Seed:

Visits from our Kin: A Speakers Series at the Mustard Seed

Scott and Claire Schaeffer-Duffy are beloved co-workers in the Catholic Worker vineyard hailing from our sister house, Saints Francis and Therese, here in Worcester. They will be our featured speakers at our April 11th ("Second Monday") clarification of thought meeting held here in the dining room at 93 Piedmont Street at 7 PM. The couple's love and support of Worcester's poor over decades as well as their international peace work is most exemplary. Claire is an award-winning journalist for the "National Catholic Reporter" and Scott has recently published a really fine and very poignant and funny book, "Nothing is Impossible". It is the most current capstone to the wonderful writing both Scott and Claire have regularly done and do in their influential Catholic Worker paper, "The Catholic Radical". Please come and learn more of how they view Catholic Worker life and how we might all together refine the local vision and celebrate the call to more regional and collaborative labors. Suzanne Belote-Shanley and Brayton Shanley of Agape Community will be our May 9th speakers. Let us celebrate well our kinship! Scott will likely have signed copies of his wonderful book on hand for purchase.

Elders at Notre Dame du Lac gift the Mustard Seed:

The Assisted Living Community at Notre Dame du Lac took up a Lenten collection thanks to the generosity of Sister Mary Ann Hemenway, SSJ and concerned residents. They raised over $570.00 for the work of the house. The gift was formally presented at the Easter Vigil with Theresa Boover bringing up the gift with son, Michael. Thanks to that lovely community of seniors for their kindness to us as to the many, many contributors and donors whose generosity keep us going. Thanks so!

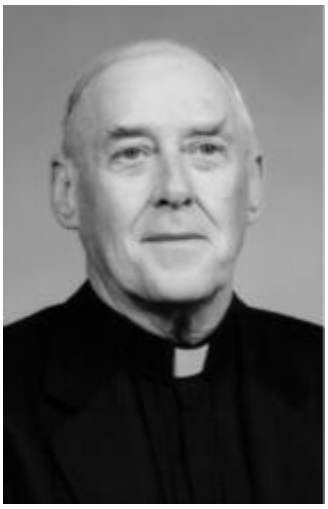
Proposed Tom Lewis film:

Our friend, Paul Gingras, has been working on producing a film documentary on our friend, noted activist and artist, Tom Lewis who was long part of the Mustard Seed community. For an informational celebration of Tom put together by Jonah House, please see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9mt6y_LS5Q&feature=share. Paul's page for generating interest in and funding for the project can be found at: http://tomlewisartistactivist.weebly.com/. Paul also took a lot of wonderful photographs at the recent Catholic Worker/Dorothy Day gathering at Holy Cross. These are found on this site as well. Thanks to David O'Brien for organizing that wonderful day of memory sharing and community building at the College of the Holy Cross on March 15th. The wonderful afternoon lecture by Robert Ellsberg and update on the process of Dorothy Day's canonization by George Horton is online here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9U2dl6xZiE.

Annual SGA Benefit Auction at Worcester State University

Friends at WSU in the Student Government Association are holding an auction to assist us, Abby's and Sherry's House. This year the auction is held on Friday, April 8th at 6:30 PM in the Blue Room in the Student Center. Here is some information thanks to Abby's House and WSU: http://www.abbyshouse.org/abbyshouse/SGA-auction and http://www.worcester.edu/SGA-Auction-Items/. We are hoping for great results, for a successful auction as to assist the good labors of each recipient community. And thanks WSU SGA!

Memorial Mass for Father Bernard E. Gilgun On April 17th, our annual Memorial Mass for Father Bernie will take place on Sunday afternoon at 3 PM at the "Hound of Heaven" Chapel at Annunciation House of Worcester, 6 Strasburg Road 01607. A pot-luck supper will follow. Please join us as the Spirit moves!



Food Pantry Needs Our shelves currently look like Mother Hubbard's cupboard. We are very much in need of replenishment. We can use canned goods of all kinds but especially liked by folks are tuna fish, canned soups, canned chicken, Spam and baked beans. Pasta and tomato sauce, cereal and peanut butter are also very welcome gifts. The Trappist monks in Spencer thankfully bring us lots of jelly! We are grateful for any help you may be able to provide.

Stewardship Our work has grown as has our need for transparency and care of the resources donors entrust to us. We happily welcome Lisa McCarthy to the work of the community as our keeper of the books. Blessings, Lisa!

We thank thee We wish to thank you all for pilgrimage with us as we journey along in our often bold and yet fragile attempts to love and serve the other, the Other. For all of you, we are most grateful. Echoing Dag Hammarskjöld, we at the Mustard Seed share with you his very appreciative and hopeful sentiments: **"For all that has been, thanks: for all that will be, yes!**